



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS FORMER PHILIPPINE CONGRESSMAN CONVICTED OF HIGH-PROFILE ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN SCHEME IN THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announced that Mark Jimenez, a former Congressman in the Philippines who was convicted in Miami in 2003 for his role in an illegal campaign contribution scheme, was removed from the United States to his native Philippines over the weekend by ICE Detention and Removal Operations officers.

Jimenez, a native of the Philippines, first came to the United States in 1986 on a business visa. He ultimately settled in Miami where he oversaw a company called Future Tech International, Inc.

On April 15, 1999 a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Florida returned a 47-count indictment against Jimenez on income tax fraud charges and violations involving federal campaign contributions. The tax charges stemmed from Jimenez's creation of a company in Uruguay as part of his scheme to transfer approximately \$5 million of income out of the United States without paying taxes on it.

The court documents also alleged that Jimenez defrauded the Federal Election Commission by making illegal contributions to many federal campaigns in the mid-1990s, including at least \$41,500 in illegal contributions to the re-election campaign of President William Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, and to the campaigns of Senator Edward Kennedy, and Senator Robert Torricelli.

Jimenez fled the United States in 1998 during the investigation. In May of 2001, Jimenez was elected to a seat in the Twelfth Philippine Legislature as a representative from Manila. In December 2002, following negotiations between Jimenez's attorneys and officials from the Department of Justice, Jimenez returned voluntarily to the United States.

On August 1, 2003, Jimenez pleaded guilty in the Southern District of Florida to two counts of tax evasion and one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and to commit election finance offenses. Jimenez was sentenced to 27 months incarceration and ordered to pay \$1.2 million in restitution for unpaid additional income taxes for years 1995 and 1996.

Jimenez served his sentence and was later turned over to ICE. On March 30, 2005 an Immigration Judge ordered him removed from the United States to his native Philippines on grounds that he was a foreign national convicted of a serious federal crime.

"The arrest, prosecution, and removal of foreign nationals who disregard the laws of this nation demonstrate ICE's commitment to restore the integrity to the nation's immigration system," said Thomas Decker, Acting Field Office Director for ICE in Philadelphia.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.